

107 Mildred Street Columbiana, AL 35051

Phone (205) 669-5800 Fax (205) 669-5811

April 27, 2016

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Attn.: Crystal Davis, Recreation and Conservation Programs Manager P.O. Box 5690 Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

Re: City of Columbiana

Recreational Trails Program Pre-Application

Ms. Davis:

On behalf of the City of Columbiana, I am pleased to submit the enclosed application for funding consideration under the FY 2016 Recreational Trails Program. The project proposed in this application is requesting funding assistance to build a 5.7 mile diverse use trail from the City of Columbiana to the Shelby Iron Works historic park. The request herein will cover one fourth of the entire length of the 5.7 mile trail.

The trail will be a collaborative project between the City of Columbiana, the Shelby County Commission, the Historic Shelby Association, the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce, and the Southern Shelby Chamber of Commerce. Therefore, this project is of great importance to a large segment of our Shelby County community.

If you need more information, please contact me at (205)669-5800. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Stancil Handley

Mayor

FY2016 Recreational Trails Program Pre-Application Form Deadline: Noon, Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Applicant Information

Applicant's Name (Organization)	City of Columbiana		
Street Address	107 Mildred Street		
City	Columbiana State AL		
Zip Code	35051		
County	Shelby		
FEIN	63-6001231 DUNS Number 079106878		
Project Title (maximum of six words)	Columbiana Rascal Rail History Trail		
Project Description (maximum of 25 words)	Columbiana plans to build a 5 mile diverse use trail from the City's Arts Council Park & Archive museum area to the Shelby Iron Works Park.		
Park Name	NA		
Park Address			
City	State		
Zip Code			
GPS Coordinates of Project	Latitude 33.175645, Longitude -86.608444		
Congressional District	6		
State Senate District	House 541 Senate District		
Applicant's Chief Elected Official, Director, or President	Stancil Handley, Mayor		
E-mail Address	mayorhandley@cityofcolumbiana.com Phone 205-669-5800 Number		

Grant Administrator	Community Consultants Inc			
E-mail Address	kkessler@cci-hsv.com	Phone	256-890-4240	

General Project Information

Trail Length in Linear Feet	7,537 Trail Width 16 Feet		
Trail Surface Type	Dense Grade Base		
Application Type	Non-motorized, Single UseNon-motorized, Diverse Use		
	Motorized, Diverse UseMotorized, Single UseEducational		
Type of Applicant	City/TownCountyStatePrivate Organization		
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$204,816.00		
Grant Amount Requested	\$100,000.00		
Total Local Match	\$104,816.00		
Cash Match	\$54,816.00		
In-Kind Match	\$50,000.00		
Donation	\$0.00		

Project Narrative

Brief Description of the Project (350 characters or less)

The City of Columbiana is seeking grant assistance to build the first quarter of a 5 mile multi-purpose trail from the City's Arts Council Park, (under development) & Shelby Archive Museum near downtown to the Shelby Iron Works Park. The path would be constructed along a historic railroad bed that was used during the American Civil War.

1. Describe the degree to which the project's scope and feasibility meet the project area's recreational needs. (Key Consideration: Does the project appear to be feasible and incorporate a good project design with consideration given to the natural and cultural environment in which the project is located, and appropriate consideration given to needs and benefits?) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The project will be an excellent opportunity to connect the community of Shelby with the City of Columbiana and it will also provide a link between two parks. The Columbiana Arts Council Park is currently under development and will include an Arts Center, Pavilion, & Plaza as well as outdoor recreation such as a splash pad. From the City, the trail will travel 5.7 miles to the historic Shelby Iron Works park. Iron Works park is a historic museum which dates back to December 29, 1842 and was a key iron producer during the American Civil War.

The entire length of the trail, 5.7 miles, will be 16 feet wide to accommodate hiking, jogging, biking, as well as golf carts and will be an excellent recreational facility for both the City of Columbiana and the southern section of Shelby County.

The City's application to build the trail, approx 1.4 miles, is in conjunction with applications from the Historic Shelby Assoc., the Greater Shelby Co Chamber, and the South Shelby Chamber of Commerce.

2. Describe the ways in which the project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes. (Key Consideration: An important concern is that this project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region. Maximum points will be given to projects with connectivity to other trails or parks, environmental education and preservation, and economic development opportunities.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The proposed multi-purpose trail will accommodate numerous uses in the region which can be used by hikers, runners, bikers, bird watchers and others. In addition to the numerous usages for this trail, the trail will serve as a vital link between the City and southern Shelby County.

The Shelby Iron Works park is currently a popular destination point for locals as well as tourist for regular museum attendance as well as special events, such as car shows, and with the addition of the new Arts Council facility in Columbiana, the area will become even more of a destination point for the region. The City of Calera, which is just a few miles from Columbiana, currently has their own Heart of Dixie RR Museum, which will coordinate nicely with the new facilities and trail facilities in Columbiana & Shelby further promoting the region.

The construction of the proposed trail will address numerous recreational needs in this area as well as providing cultural and educational opportunities.

3. Describe the ways in which the project provides a new, unique, or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public. (Key Consideration: This criterion includes projects of national, regional, and local demonstration value. The most important concern is whether the grant recipient is committed to trying an approach that is new at the local level. Additional points are awarded for nationwide applicability and statewide or regional value. The applicant must commit to documenting the results of the demonstration.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Given that the old railroad bed is a direct link between the City and the Iron Works Park, this project will be a unique opportunity to link these facilities. Once the Columbiana Park is complete, the proposed trail will give residents and visitors multiple opportunities for recreational events making the area a destination point.

The entire trail will be built in conjunction with the Historic Shelby Assoc(Iron Works Park), the Greater Shelby County Chamber, and the South Shelby Chamber which is a testament to the value being placed on this new facility. The Shelby County Commission will also be a key contributor to the project as they will be providing financial support as well as In-Kind labor during the design and construction of the new trail.

The obvious recreational opportunities along with the historic and educational avenues to be provided through this project make the proposed multi-use trail a highly effective means of making trail opportunities available in the region.

4. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged, and other special populations or groups. (Key Consideration: Whether this project will expand recreation opportunities for special populations with recreation deficiencies.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The new trail facilities will give economically disadvantaged individuals an opportunity for recreation as the trail will be free resource available to the public. According to census tract data, this area has a population of over 1,300 and a LowMod percentage of 56%, many of which are retired individuals living on limited fixed incomes. The new trail runs directly through this tract and will therefore promote trail access for those economically disadvantaged that currently have no other recreational trail opportunities.

Due to the extended length of the trail, the entities involved in this project cannot afford to pave the trail immediately and make it completely ADA compliant as it would cost over \$1,300,000. However, the proposed construction will be to build the trail as a dense grade surface which will still allow access to persons with disabilities. The future plans, through a phased approach, will be to asphalt the entire trail thereby making it completely ADA accessible.

5. Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interests, and public agencies within the project area. (Key Consideration: The major concern is that this project is a component of an integrated effort to enhance economic revitalization and community conservation. Maximum points will be given to applicants providing evidence of cooperative efforts with trail user groups and/or multiple public meetings.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The proposed link between the City and the Shelby community will not only meet recreation needs but also creates an economic corridor as well. The trail head in the City is close to Columbiana's downtown area thereby providing trail access to numerous businesses, City Hall, Shelby County Courthouse etc. The downtown area has an excellent network of sidewalks so users will have ease of access for pedestrian travel. The support of both the Greater Shelby County & South Shelby Chambers, which are submitting applications of their own for this trail, are evidence of the cooperative efforts and potential economic growth that can be provided through this project.

The trail itself will be an attraction for many enthusiasts given the trail length and supporting facilities. This will bring in new business and economic revitalization for the area. This project is clearly a collaborative effort that will involve trail users, private interests, and multiple public agencies for the benefit of all.

6. Describe the ways in which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials as well as dollars). (Key Consideration: The major concern is whether actual leveraging is assured or the potential for leveraging is good, outside of any funds committed for the initial grant match. Maximum points will be given for applicants committing double the minimum local match or higher.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Shelby County Commission along with the City of Columbiana are providing in-kind service of their work forces to assist in the development of the trail including engineering design and actual construction of the proposed trail. The County is also spending \$80,000 for acquisition of the rail bed property that is not included the RTP scope. Even so the local match is well above the minimum 20%.

The City's trail request will also be combined with applications submitted by the Historic Shelby Association, the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce, and the South Shelby Chamber of Commerce so that the entire 5.7 mile multi-use trail can be constructed immediately as opposed to having to build the trail in segments over several years.

an operation and maintenance platrail after it is completed and idea. Whether the grant recipient is willing whether the applicant provides a real	itment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the atify who will be responsible for the work. (Key Consideration: ag to commit to continue the maintenance and operation of the project and alistic operation and maintenance plan/budget. Maximum points will be g innovative funding measures for trail maintenance.) 10 Points Available
Limit 1,000 Characters	The City of Columbiana and the Shelby County Commission will have primary responsibility for maintaining and operating the new trail both of which have an excellent track record of managing facilities as evidenced by the condition of the City parks and all the park facilities throughout Shelby County which include some of the largest parks in Alabama.
	The financial resources of Columbiana and Shelby County are more than sufficient to manage the new trail especially given that Shelby is the fastest growing County in the State.

8. The degree to which community involvement is addressed: i.e., (A) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group that has substantial knowledge, and (B) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups, or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposed idea and has made commitments of labor, money, or materials to support proposed implementation. (Key Consideration: The objective is to determine if the project is responding to citizen-identified needs. The priority of the project to users is evidenced by citizen support for the idea. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating that the project concept was originally proposed at the grassroots level and, especially, for extensive citizen or private organization involvement in project development and support in project implementation. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating extensive involvement and participation from citizens and interest groups during all phases of application development and commitments beyond.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

- A. The Rascal Rail History Trail has been in the planning stages for many years. Local trail users along with the City, County, and local museum volunteers are very excited about the development of this trail and have been very involved in the development of the Recreational Trail Plan. Their input has been used in the development and design of the proposed trail and they will continue a high level of involvement during the implementation of this trail given that several entities will be needed if all segments of these trail applications are successful.
- B. The Historic Shelby Association, which operates the Shelby Iron Works Park, is an all-volunteer organization that is a critical component of the success of the Rascal Rail Trail given that they are also involved in applying for these trail funds through a separate application. Likewise, both Chambers discussed herein, are also applying therefore this is truly a Community project.

9. Describe in detail how the trail will be managed. Include discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling. 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The City of Columbiana and the Shelby County Commission will be responsible for managing the trail which will be open from sunrise to sunset year round. The City of Columbiana Police Department and Shelby County Sheriff Department will be responsible for the security of the trail.

The following rules will be applied to the trail:

- 1) Use at your own risk
- 2) Use of trail prohibited after operating hours
- 3) Golf carts will be allowed; however no other motorized vehicles will be permitted on the trail.

10. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multi-use), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership. (Key Consideration: The RTP was created to address trail needs in the urban and rural areas of the state. In order to assess the need for additional trails it is first necessary to identify the quantity and location of existing resources within the service area. It is also necessary to establish a service area — either population or resource based. For example, a population based service area could be a neighborhood, school district, or political jurisdiction whereas, a resource based service area might be defined along a linear greenway, water course, or unique natural/cultural area. However, in both instances, an estimate of the number of beneficiaries should be provided.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The nearest trail resource in Columbiana is a walking trail located approximately 2 miles from the proposed site at the Columbiana Sports Complex which includes several ball fields, playgrounds, and picnic/pavilion area. The Columbiana Sports Complex is a joint venture with shared financing between Shelby County and the City of Columbiana.

Other trail facilities exist in other sections of Shelby County; however the Rascal Rail History Trail proposed in this application will be the only one of its kind within reasonable proximity to serve the southern and eastern sections of the County.

According to 2010 census data, there is a population of approximately 12,000 people within a 5 mile radius of the proposed trail. This is the immediate vicinity; however given the length of the proposed trail and other factors mentioned previously, this trail will attract a much larger audience.

11. Identify the length of time the trail will be maintained and open and available to the public and identify the method to be used to ensure this commitment (deed covenant, deed restriction, etc.). (Key Consideration: The objective is to utilize RTP funds to the greatest extent possible by ensuring the improvements are maintained and available for public trail use as long as possible. Points will only be awarded to applicants exceeding the minimum required timeframe for a trail development project to remain open to the public. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants electing to maintain the improvements in perpetuity.) 15 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The entire trail length of over 5 miles will be split in half with the southern section being owned by Shelby County through the purchase of the rail bed from CSX railroad and the upper half being leased by the City of Columbiana from the property owner Alagasco.

The Shelby County half will be owned outright and therefore will remain a recreation facility for perpetuity and so noted on the property deed. The City's half will have to be leased through a long term, 50 year, agreement with Alagasco.

Please see the Rascal Rail History Trail video included with the digital copy of this application for more information. Thank you.

Note: Property acquired with RTP funds must remain open to the public in perpetuity. Should the property cease to be open to the public for trail use, the applicant must repay the RTP 80% of the fair market value of the property at the time of the change in use. If the project is located on an easement or on leased land, the minimum timeframe for the easement or lease is 25 years. The project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended during that time. For development projects on applicant owned property, the project must remain open for public assess for the use for which the RTP funds were intended for a minimum of 25 years.

Total Project Cost \$204,816.00

Total Funds Requested \$100,000.00

Important Note: The maximum grant amount by trail type is \$35,000 for non-motorized, single-use trails; \$100,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; \$524,936 for motorized trails, or \$87,489 for education projects.

Signature, Chief Elected Official, Director, or President Seeshally

Date 04/27/2016

Typed Name and Title

Stancil Handley, Mayor

Program Information

Introduction

History and Purpose

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal grant program authorized by Congress for the purpose of providing states, local governments, and private sector organizations with funds to acquire lands and develop and/or improve trail and trail-related resources.

Allocation of Funds for the 2016 Funding Cycle

The RTP funds are appropriated by Congress to the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and FHWA allocates the funds through state agencies as a grants program to sub-grantees. Alabama's allocation to sub-grantees in the 2016 funding cycle will be approximately \$1,609,000.

Division of Available Funds

The maximum grant amount by trail type is \$35,000 for non-motorized, single-use trails; \$100,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; \$524,936 for motorized trails, or \$87,489 for education.

Thirty percent of Alabama's RTP funds must be used for motorized trail uses, 30 percent for non-motorized trail uses, and 40 percent for diverse trail uses. Diverse motorized projects (such as ATV and motorcycle) or diverse non-motorized projects (such as pedestrian and equestrian) may satisfy two of these categories at the same time. The State encourages applicants to consider projects that benefit both motorized and non-motorized users, such as common trailhead facilities.

RESOLUTION 04-16-08 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR RPT FUND GRANT

WHEREAS, the City of Columbiana intends to apply to the State of Alabama for Recreational Trails Program Funds to construct a multipurpose trail; and

WHEREAS, said programs are limited to funding a maximum of eighty percent (80%) of the proposed project cost up to a maximum grant amount of \$100,000 to construct the trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the City of Columbiana will commit all matching funds for the proposed Recreational Trails Fund Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the grant is awarded, the City understands that it will sign assurances complying with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules and regulations.

THEREUPON Council member King moved and Council member Ruston seconded the motion that said resolution be given vote, and said resolution passed by roll call vote. The results of the vote were:

	Yea	Nay
Leslie Whiting	<u>X</u>	
Barbara Moore	<u>X</u>	
Ricky Ruston	<u>X</u>	
Kim King	<u>X</u>	
Ouida Mayfield	X	
Stancil Handley	_ <u>X</u>	

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City of Columbiana, on this the 19th day of April 2016.

Stancil Handley, Mayor

Mark Frey, City Clerk

I, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Columbiana, Alabama, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a resolution lawfully passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Columbiana, at a regular meeting of such Council held on the 19th day of April, 2016, and that such resolution is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Attested by:

Mark Frey, City Clerk

Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost RASCAL RAIL HISTORY TRAIL COLUMBIANA ALABAMA

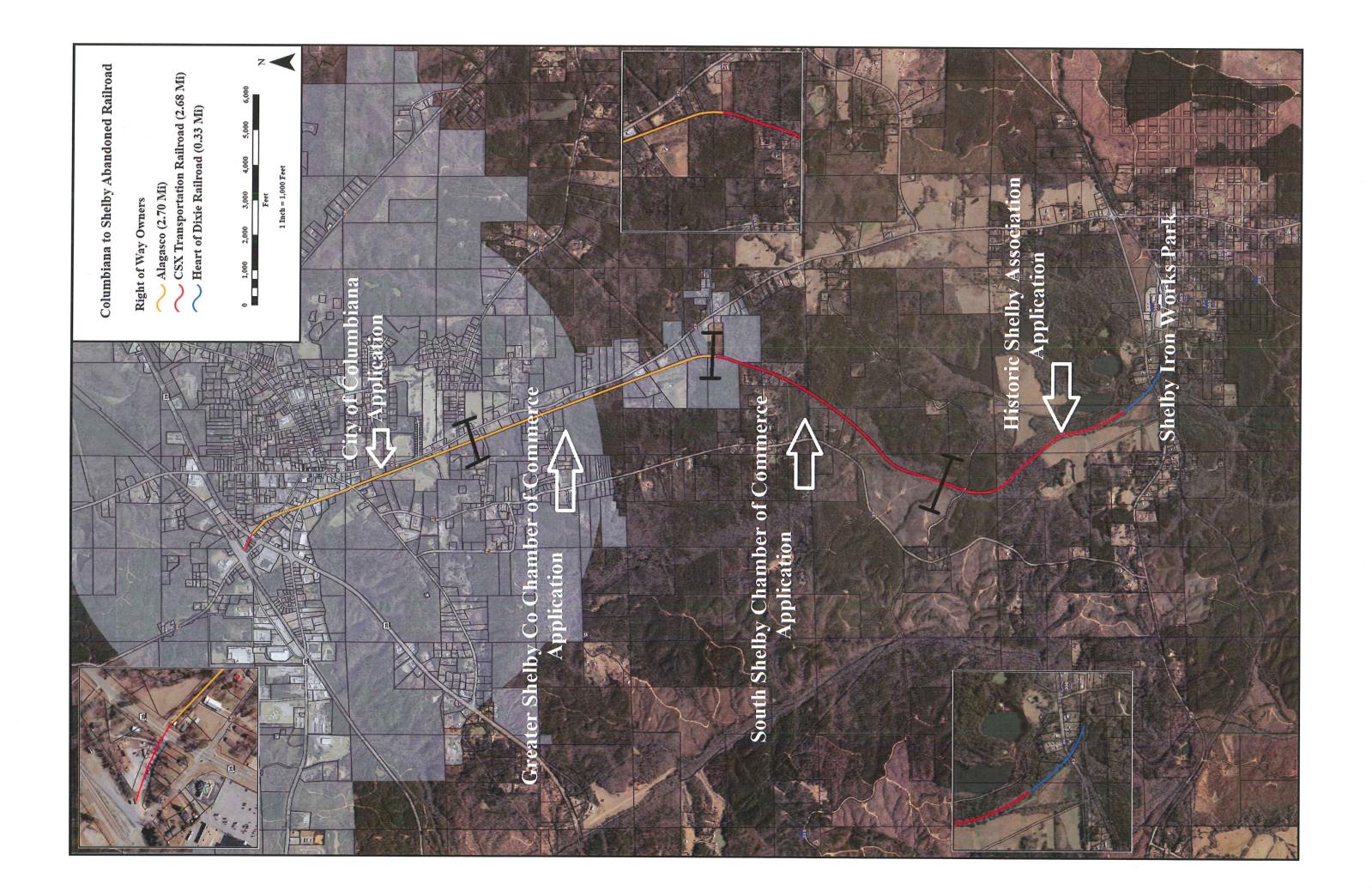
Item	Quantity	Unit	Description	Unit Cost	Total
1	1	LS	Grading (7,537 LF Per Typical Section)	\$75,370.00	\$75,370.00
2	13,399.50	SY	Dense Grade Base (4" Thick/ 16' wide)	\$8.00	\$107,196.00
3	1	LS	Drainage Piping	\$18,750.00	\$18,750.00
4	1.75	Acres	Erosion Control	\$2,000.00	
			Total Project Cost	,	\$204,816.00

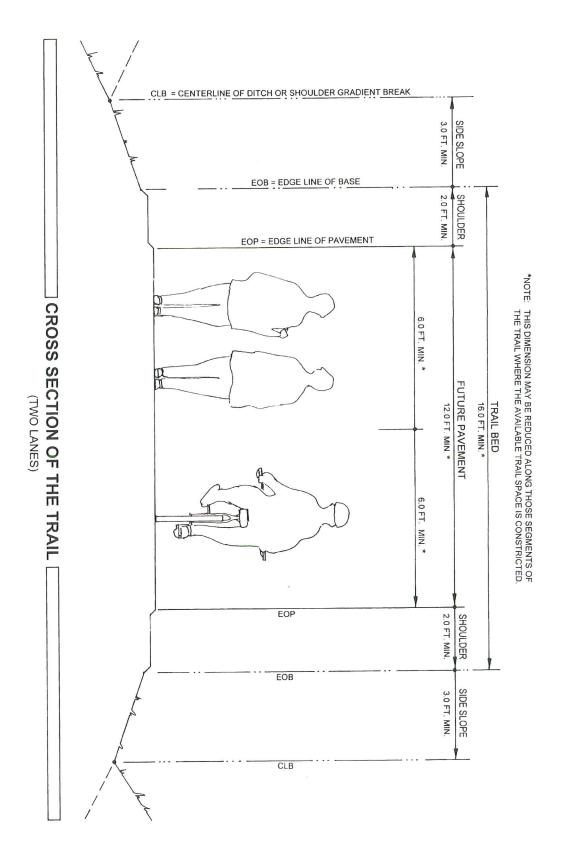
RTP Request

\$100,000.00

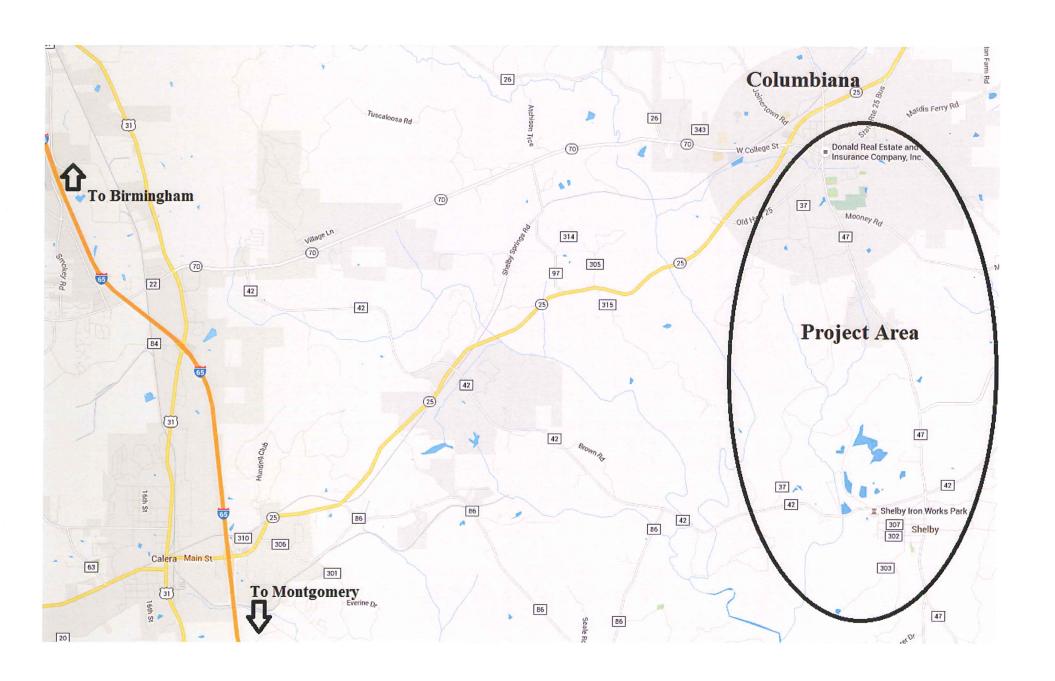
Local Match

\$104,816.00





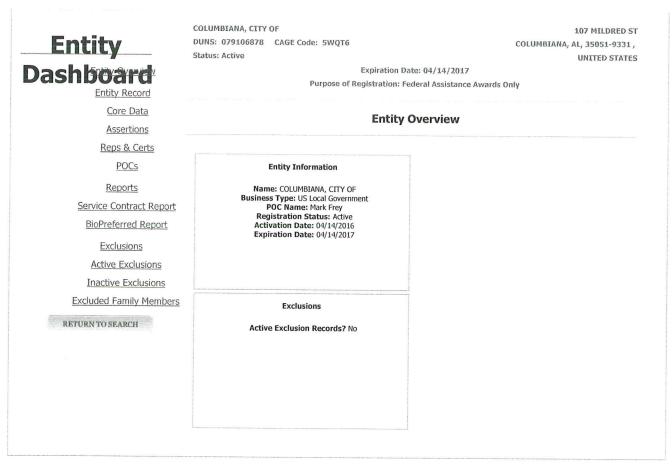
RASCAL RAIL HISTORY TRAIL



USER NAME	PASSWORD	
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SAM | System for Award Management 1.0

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1. Looking north from Beaver Creek Road at rail corridor intersection.



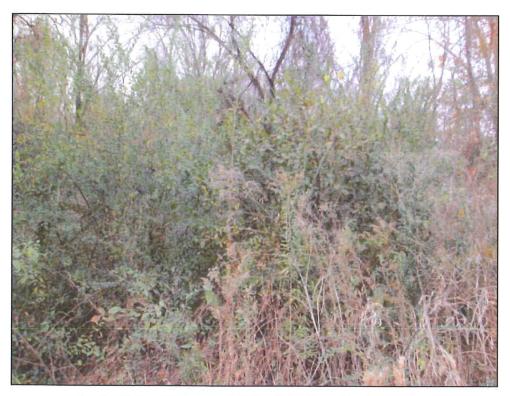
2. Looking south from Beaver Creek Road at rail corridor intersection.



3. Looking south from location marked by an arrow in Photograph 2.



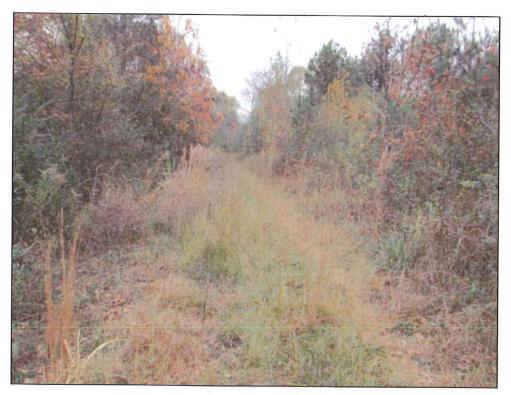
4. Looking north from Ronbar Road at rail corridor intersection.



5. Looking south from Ronbar Road at rail corridor intersection.



6. Natural gas pipeline line running parallel to northernmost section of the property.



7. Rail corridor where overlapped by Hillsdale Drive.



 ${\bf 8.\ Southern\ end\ of\ Hills dale\ Drive\ where\ overlapping\ rail\ corridor.}$



9. Rail corridor looking north from Hillsdale Drive where overlapping rail corridor.

Columbiana Arts Council Park Rendering

